

## Promoting and Evaluating Rigorous Programs of Study (RPOS)

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) envisioned that all students will achieve challenging academic and technical standards and be prepared for high-skill, high-wage, or high-demand occupations in current or emerging professions in the 21st century global economy. To this end, Perkins IV requires states to offer programs of study (POS) comprised of academic and career and technical content that prepares students to make successful transitions to postsecondary education and the workplace.

OVAE launched the *Promoting Rigorous Career and Technical Education Programs of Study* discretionary grant program to: 1) facilitate the implementation of rigorous programs of study (RPOS), which are defined as a career and technical education POS that incorporate the ten components and sub-components as outlined in OVAE's Design Framework and 2) conduct a study to determine the impact on students who successfully complete a RPOS with other CTE students in programs that do not align with the Design Framework and with non-CTE students enrolled in a general education track.

Six state were selected to implement and evaluate programs of study in the following career cluster areas:

- Arizona - Education and Training Cluster
- Kansas - Manufacturing Cluster
- Maryland - Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics Cluster
- Montana - Architecture and Construction Cluster
- Utah - Health Science Cluster
- Wisconsin - Manufacturing Cluster

### Program of Study Design Framework Components

- Legislation and policies
- Partnerships
- Professional development
- Accountability and evaluation systems
- College and career readiness standards
- Course sequences
- Credit transfer agreements
- Guidance counseling and academic advisement
- Teaching and learning strategies
- Technical skill assessments

## Resources and Tools That You Can Use

- A Web site that offers brochures, knowledge and skills statements, and model program of study templates organized around the 16 career cluster areas recognized by OVAE and the National Association for State Directors of Career and Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) are located at <http://www.careertech.org>
- A Web site that offers information on OVAE's Programs of Study Design Framework is located on the Perkins Collaborative Resource Network (PCRN) at: <http://cte.ed.gov/nationalinitiatives/rpos/cfm>

### OVAE Contact Web Site

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Perkins Collaborative Resource Network (PCRN) - <http://cte.ed.gov>